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FOLLOWING REPEAT BRASILIA 3679 ACTION SECSTATE MAY 24TH

QUOTE

S E C R E T BRASILIA 3679

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, BR

SUBJ: INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST - EDITORIAL COVERAGE

AND OFFER OF INDIAN TECHNOLOGY

REF: BRASILIA 3567, 3642, 3600, 3562

SUMMARY: BRAZIL'S TWO LEADING NEWSPAPERS HAVE FEATURED EDITORIALS ON THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST. ONE WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE "INDIAN STUNT," WHILE THE OTHER LAMENTED THE GLOBAL " POWER GAME" THAT LED TO THE TEST. THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL HAS OFFERED TO SHARE INDIAN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WITH BRAZIL. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRESTIGIOUS ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, DESCRIBING THE INDIAN TEST AS "A LAMENTABLE STUNT," DEPLORED THE TEST AS A WASTE OF RESOURCES AND A WRONG-HEADED METHOD OF RAISING NATIONAL PRIDE, BRANDING AS FALSE INDIAN CLAIMS THAT THE

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NUCLEAR TEST HAD EXCLUSIVELY PEACEFUL ENDS. THE EDITORIAL

ALSO CHARGES INDIA WITH PUTTING IN DOUBT ITS TREATY COMMITMENT TO AVOID ATMOSPHERIC TESTS, CITING CLAIMS OF RADIOACTIVE LEAKAGE FROM THE TEST SITE. DESCRIBING INDIA AS "...TOGETHER WITH COMMUNIST CHINA, THE MOST MILITARISTIC AND BELLICOSE NATION IN ASIA ...", THE ARTICLE RIDICULES INDIAN CLAIMS TO PACIFISM AND CONCLUDES, "WITHOUT DOUBT, THIS WAS A BOMB OF PEACE. THE NATIONS OF THE 'THIRD WORLD' MUST NOT PROTEST AGAINST ITS DETONATION, AS THEY DID AGAINST THE FRENCH BOMBS. NOW, THEY MUST NOT EVEN PROTEST AGAINST FURTHER PROLIFERATION, AS LONG AS THE FUTURE POSSESSORS ARE ALL OF THE 'THIRD WORLD,' 'PACIFISTS' BY BIRTH, SO TO SPEAK. WE ONLY NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE PROCESS TO SEE THE BOMB IN THE HANDS OF SUCH RESPONSIBLE AND CIRCUMSPECT LEADERS AS CASTRO AND KADAFI."

2. THE JORNAL DO BRASIL SAYS "THERE WILL BE REASONS OF PRESTIGE TO JUSTIFY THE DECISION," BUT EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT "PEACEFUL INTENTIONS ARE THE ESSENTIAL CAUSE" FOR THE TEST. THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT NEITHER BRAZIL NOR INDIA HAS SIGNED THE NPT, AND ASCRIBES THIS TO "THE DESIRE TO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MOVE AHEAD IN A DECISIVE SCIENTIFIC SECTOR. BRAZILIAN THINKING ASSUMES THAT, IN THE WORDS OF FORMER PRESIDENT COSTA E SILVA, 'THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR ENERGY INEVITABLY INCLUDES, AT A CERTAIN POINT, THE USE OF EXPLOSIONS.'" THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "WE HAVE, ON THE ONE HAND, THE HARD REALITY THAT VERTICAL PROLIFERATION, THE GROWTH OF NUCLEAR STOCKPILES, CONTINUES WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL CONTROL, INVALIDATING THE ARGUMENTS FOR THE CONTAINMENT OF HORIZONTAL PROLIFERATION, AND ON THE OTHER HAND, THE IMPERATIVE OF DEVELOPING NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL MEANS. THE IMPASSE CAUSED BY THE INSINCERITY AND MALICIOUSNESS OF THE POWER GAME LEADS TO SUCH RESULTS AS THE INDIAN TEST. PROLIFERATION OF ANY KIND, AT LEAST FOR A NON-NUCLEAR CONTINENT SUCH AS LATIN AMERICA, CONTINUES TO BE UNDESIRABLE. BUT IT IS HAPPENING RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES, WHILE HOPES FOR WORLD-WIDE COMMON PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE, WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS, FOR THE PROGRESS OF ALL,

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ARE MELTING AWAY."

3. INDIAN AMBASSADOR PRITHI SINGH REFERRING TO THE 1968 BILATERAL TREATY BETWEEN INDIA AND BRAZIL FOR THE EXCHANGE OF NUCLEAR INFORMATION, WAS QUOTED IN THE PRESS MAY 21 AS SAYING, "MY COUNTRY IS PREPARED TO FURNISH TO ITS BRAZILIAN FRIENDS THE TECHNOLOGY WHICH PERMITTED IT TO BUILD AN ATOM BOMB."

4. NEWSPAPERS ON MAY 23 CARRIED AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHIEF OF THE BRAZILIAN NAVY DESTROYER FORCE, ADMIRAL ARATANHA, TO THE EFFECT THAT BRAZIL CAN CONSTRUCT ITS FIRST NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIP WITHIN FIVE YEARS. ADMIRAL ARATANHA STATED THAT NAVY TECHNICIANS AND MEMBERS OF THE BRAZILIAN NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION CNEN HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROJECT FOR THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS.

5. COMMENT: THE ESTADO DE SAO PAULO EDITORIAL IS THE MOST OUTSPOKEN PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE INDIAN TEST WE HAVE THUS FAR SEEN. AS FAR AS ADMIRAL ARATANHA'S CLAIMS ARE CONCERNED, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES HE IS ENGAGED IN WISHFUL THINKING. THE CUTBACK IN EXPENDITURE ON MILITARY MODERNIZATION DECREED BY THE GEISEL ADMINISTRATION WOULD MILITATE AGAINST APPROVAL OF THE HIGH LEVEL OF CAPITAL OUTLAY NECESSARY FOR THE REALIZATION OF A PROJECT SO MARGINAL TO BRAZIL'S DEFENSE NEEDS.
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